

Message Text

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN NAIROBI

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 27303

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: MESSAGE TO FOURIE

REF: PRETORIA 4309

1. PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO BRAND FOURIE FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE RHODESIANS IN RESPONSE TO HIS MESSAGE THROUGH YOU FROM HAWKINS:

2. BEGIN TEXT MESSAGE: WE FULLY APPRECIATE THE CONCERN THAT TERRORISM MAY CONTINUE IN SPITE OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE SALISBURY AUTHORITIES ARE PREPARED TO MOVE TO AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT. WE REAFFIRM THAT WE WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO DE-ESCALATE THE TERRORISM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. MUCH WILL DEPEND, OF COURSE, ON THE GENERAL PRECEPTION THAT THE OFFER TO CONCILIATE THE ISSUE IS AUTHENTIC.

3. IT IS OUR CONSIDERED OPINION, HOWEVER, THAT ANY SHOW OF NERVOUSNESS ON THE PART OF THE RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES THAT THEY CANNOT HANDLE ANY IMMEDIATE THREAT WOULD BE ILL ADVISED, SINCE IT WOULD ONLY ADD ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES TO VIOLENCE BY THOSE WHO ARE DEAD SET AGAINST A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. AND PUBLIC REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE DE-ESCALATION

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CAN RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SINCERETY OF THE RHODESIAN

ANNOUNCEMENT. FOR OUR PART, SCHAUFLE IS GOING TO LUSAKA AND WILL SPEAK TO KAUNDA TO URGE MAXIMUM RESTRAINT. THIS IS THE BEST WE CAN DO BEFORE FRIDAY. WE CANNOT COMPILE ASSURANCES FROM THE OTHER PRESIDENTS BEFORE THEN. BUT WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN QUIETLY TO BRING ABOUT A DE-ESCALATION AFTER FRIDAY. THE RHODESIANS AND OTHERS SHOULD GO AHEAD AND USE THEIR RESOURCES WITH NKOMO AND OTHER FACTIONS. IT IS OUR JUDGMENT THAT IF A DE FACTO DE-ESCALATION TAKES PLACE IT IS IMPORTANT THE RHODESIANS NOT MAKE A PUBLIC POINT OF IT, SINCE THIS AGIN COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR OUR LONG TERM PROGRAM.

4. WE WILL BE IN FURTHER TOUCH WITH THE SALISBURY AUTHORITIES WHEN WE RETURN TO WASHINGTON. END MESSAGE.

5. ADD A FURTHER POINT, FOR FOURIE ALONE. WE REQUEST THAT HE DO WHAT HE CAN TO INSURE THAT FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DAY ANY MESSAGE HE MAY RECEIVE FROM THE RHODESIANS FOR US BE COMMUNICATED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH YOU.

6. YOU MAY ACCEPT INVITATION FOR BRIEFING ON SECURITY SITUATION. YOU SHOULD TREAT RHODESIANS CORRECTLY AND WITH SOME COMPASSION IN VIEW OF THE BIG STEP THEY ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE. YOU MAY ALSO REPEAT TO THEM ABOVE MESSAGE PASSED TO FOURIE.

7. WE ARE BAFFLED AT THE INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN YOUR INCOMING AND THE MESSAGE WE RECEIVED THROUGH BRITISH CHANNELS. CAN YOU EXPLAIN IT?
KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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